CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A user interface comprising a cycling display of a plurality of textual representations of a plurality of content items, wherein:

each said textual representation references a corresponding said content item;

at least one said textual representations is selectable by a user to navigate to the referenced said corresponding content item; and

the cycling display of the plurality of textual representations is cycled without user intervention such that at any one particular time during a cycling of the cycling display, at least one said textual representation is displayed on the cycling display while another said textual representation is not displayed on the cycling display.

2.   A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the cycling display of the plurality of textual representations is cycled such that after each said textual representation has been displayed on the cycling display, at least one said textual representation is displayed again on the cycling display.

3.   A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more said textual representations are for selection by a user to navigate to the referenced corresponding said content item via another said textual representation having additional descriptive data that:

describes the referenced corresponding said content item; and

is not included in the one or more said representations.

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4.   A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one said content item is video.

5.   A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one said content item includes text.

6.   A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one said content item is a news article and the corresponding said textual representation that references the at least one said content item is a headline of the news article.

7.   A user interface as recited in claim 1, further comprising a video portion for continuing an output of one said content item which was output during receipt of an input from the user to initiate execution of the user interface on a client.

8.   A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein:

a first grouping of said textual representations have a matching first characteristic, one to another; and

at least one said textual representation of the first grouping is selectable by the user such that, when selected, a second grouping of said textual representations having a matching second characteristic, one to another, of the selected said textual representation are displayed on the cycling display.

MS1-1991US

9. A user interface as recited in claim 8, wherein the characteristics are selected from the group consisting of:

a title;

a story line;

a textual description;

a production credit;

a critic's opinion;

a review;

a recommendation;

a duration;

a start time;

a stop time;

a genre;

a rating;

a performer;

a director;

user specific metadata; and

a combination of the foregoing.

10. A user interface comprising a plurality of representations on a display, wherein:

each said representation references a corresponding content item;

each said content item has a plurality of characteristics;

MS1-1991US

a first grouping of said representations has a matching first characteristic, one to another;

the first grouping of said representations is displayable in succession on the display without user interaction such that at least one said representation in the first grouping is displayed while another said representation in the first grouping is not displayed;

at least one said representation of the first grouping is selectable by user interaction to cause a second grouping of said representations to be displayed on the display; and

each said representation in the second grouping references a respective said content item having a matching second said characteristic, one to another.

11.   A user interface as recited in claim 10, wherein the second said characteristic is different from the first said characteristic.

12.   A user interface as recited in claim 10, wherein:

the second said characteristic is different from the first said characteristic; and

each said content item referenced in the second grouping does not have the first said characteristic that matches, one to another.

13.   A user interface as recited in claim 10, wherein:

the second said characteristic is different from the first said characteristic; and

each said content item referenced in the second grouping has the first said characteristic that matches, one to another.

MS1-1991US

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14. A user interface as recited in claim 10, wherein each said characteristic is selected from the group consisting of:

a title;

a story line;

a textual description;

a production credit;

a critic's opinion;

a review;

a recommendation;

a duration;

a start time;

a stop time;

a genre;

a rating;

a performer;

a director;

user specific metadata; and

a combination of the foregoing.

15. A user interface as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one said content item is a news article and the said representation that references the at least one said content item is a headline of the news article.

MS1-1991US

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16.   A user interface as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one said content item is available from a network connection.

17.   A user interface as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one said content item is stored locally on a client that outputs the user interface.

18.   A method comprising:

receiving an input at a client to initiate a user interface, wherein the input is received during an output of video content by the client; and

forming the user interface for output by the client, wherein the user interface:

is for display in a dedicated viewing area of a display device; and

when displayed, includes:

a video portion for continuing the output of the video content; and

a representation portion for display of a plurality of textual representations of a plurality of content items for output by the client.

19.   A method as recited in claim 18, wherein:

each said textual representation references a corresponding said content item; and

one or more said textual representations, when output, are selectable by a user to navigate to the referenced corresponding said content item.

20.   A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the dedicated viewing area

MS1-1991US

includes one or more controls that are configured to at least one of close, resize, maximize, minimize, or hide the dedicated viewing area.

21.   A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the video content is streamed from a head end to the client.

22.   A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the video content is stored locally on the client.

23.   A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising outputting the formed user interface for display by a display device.

24.   A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

receiving a second input, at the client, to select one said textual representation; and

outputting, in the representation portion of the user interface, an additional said representation, wherein the additional said textual representation is selectable by the user to navigate to the referenced corresponding said content item of the selected one said textual representation.

25.   One or more computer readable media comprising computer executable instruction that, when executed on a computer, direct the computer to perform the method as recited in claim 18.

MS1-1991US

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26.   A method comprising outputting a user interface by a client for display by a display device, wherein:

the user interface, when displayed, includes a plurality of representations of a plurality of content items;

each said representation references a corresponding said content item;

one or more said representations, when displayed, are selectable by a user to navigate to the referenced corresponding said content item; and

when the outputting has occurred for a predetermined amount of time, during which, an input has not been received from a user, the method further includes cycling one or more of the plurality of representations for output in the user interface.

27.   A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the cycling is performed such that after each said content representation has been output, at least one said content representation is output again.

28.   A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the cycling is performed such that at any one particular time, at least one said representation is not displayed while another said representation is displayed.

29.   A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the one or more said representations are selectable by the user to navigate to the referenced corresponding said content item via another said representation having additional descriptive data that:

MS1-1991US

describes the referenced corresponding said content item; and

is not included in the one or more said representations.

30.   A method as recited in claim 26, wherein:

each said representation has a plurality of characteristics;

a first grouping of said representations is for output that have a matching first said

characteristic, one to another; and

at least one of the first grouping of said representations is for selection by the user

such that, when selected, a second grouping of said representations are output that have a

matching second said characteristic, one to another, of the selected said representation.

31.   A method as recited in claim 30, wherein the characteristics are selected

from the group consisting of:

a title;

a story line;

a textual description;

a production credit;

a critic's opinion;

a review;

a recommendation;

a duration;

a start time;

a stop time;

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a genre;

a rating;

a performer;

a director;

user specific metadata; and

a combination of the foregoing.

32.   One or more computer readable media comprising computer executable instruction that, when executed on a computer, direct the computer to perform the method as recited in claim 26.

33.   A client comprising:

network interface means for providing a communicative coupling to a network;

an output interface means for providing a communicative coupling to a display device;

means for processing; and

memory means for maintaining a navigation application this is executable on the processor to provide an output of a user interface at the output interface means, wherein:

the user interface, when output, includes a display of a plurality of representations of a plurality of content items that are cycled without user intervention such that at any one particular time, at least one said representation is displayed while another said representation is not displayed;

each said representation references a corresponding said content item;

MS1-1991US

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at least one said content item is for receipt at the network interface means; and

one or more said representations are for selection by a user to navigate to the referenced corresponding said content item.

34. A client as recited in claim 33, wherein the at least one said content item is a television program.

35. A client as recited in claim 33, wherein another said content item is stored in the memory means.

36. A client as recited in claim 33, wherein the plurality of representations are cycled when an input has not been received from the user for a predetermined amount of time.

37. A client as recited in claim 33, wherein the navigation application is further executable on the processing means to:

receive an input to initiate the user interface, wherein the input is received during an output of a particular said content item at the output interface means; and

form the user interface for output at the output interface means, wherein the user interface:

is for display in a dedicated viewing area of a means for displaying; and

when displayed, includes a video portion for continuing the output of the

MS1-1991US

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particular said content item.

38.   A client as recited in claim 33, wherein the navigation application is further executable on the processing means to:

cycle a first grouping of said representations, wherein:

each said representation of the first grouping references a respective said content item having a matching first said characteristic, one to another; and

at least one said representation of the first grouping:

is for selection by a user; and

when selected, causes a second grouping of said representations to be displayed, each of which referencing a respective said content item having a matching second said characteristic, one to another.

39.   A client as recited in claim 38, wherein each said characteristic is selected from the group consisting of:

a title;

a story line;

a textual description;

a production credit;

a critic's opinion;

a review;

a recommendation;

a duration;

MS1-1991US

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a start time;

a stop time;

a genre;

a rating;

a performer;

a director;

user specific metadata; and

a combination of the foregoing.

40.   A client as recited in claim 33, further comprising an input interface means for receiving an input from an input device, wherein the input is for selecting the one or more said representations to navigate to the referenced corresponding said content item.

MS1-1991US

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